

Impaired health compelled Bro. Robbins to abandon the agency in the latter part of December, for a few months at least. He remarks:—"I found that I was experiencing physical effects detrimental to my health from the hard labor of the agency. Rest is therefore needed, especially from the exposure necessarily connected with this kind of work. For this reason I have decided to resign the agency for the present."

Careful observation and the experience of six years combine to impress more deeply than ever upon your Board the conviction that this agency is simply indispensable to the success of our Home Missionary enterprise. The question as to how this work may be carried on to the greatest advantage is worthy of mature consideration. Several churches have suggested to your Board the propriety of securing the services of active and judicious pastors, one in each of the counties of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, who would be willing, without asking any remuneration for their services, to visit the churches under their supervision once or twice every year for the purpose of awakening an interest among the people in relation to Home Mission work and of collecting funds for that object. Such a scheme, if carried into operation with energy and wisdom, would certainly economize our expenditures and facilitate the progress of our work. The obvious difficulty in this plan is that pastors will hesitate in consenting to undertake extra work involving such grave responsibilities. Most of our successful pastors have already work enough on their hands to tax to the utmost their physical abilities; and it has been shown above that the work of a general missionary agent is peculiarly trying in this respect. We have every reason for believing, on the other hand, that our agents have hitherto been the most successful and profitable men in our employ, whether we regard the question of finances or the spiritual welfare of our churches. Your Board would therefore express their decided preference for the method of conducting the work of this agency which has already been adopted.

INFORMATION REGULARLY GIVEN.

It has been the special aim of your Board to keep our churches well instructed in reference to the progress and requirements of our home missionary work. The General Agent made it his chief business to visit as many places as possible for the purpose of giving the fullest information to the people with respect to our plans and prospects. In addition to this monthly reports have been published in the columns of the *Christian Messenger*, showing in detail the appointments and actions of your Board, and giving extracts from the reports of our missionaries. Circulars were also sent forth to the churches, presenting in brief a summary of our work and prospective liabilities. It is thus seen that every available means has been employed for the spreading abroad of home missionary intelligence, and for the purpose of stimulating our brethren to contribute liberally and regularly to our treasury.